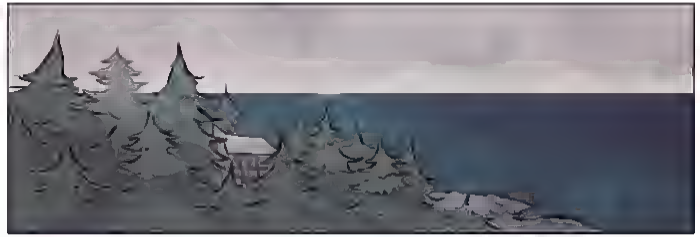
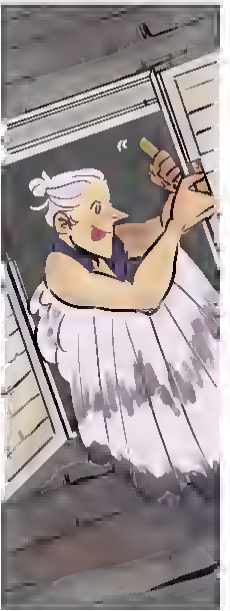
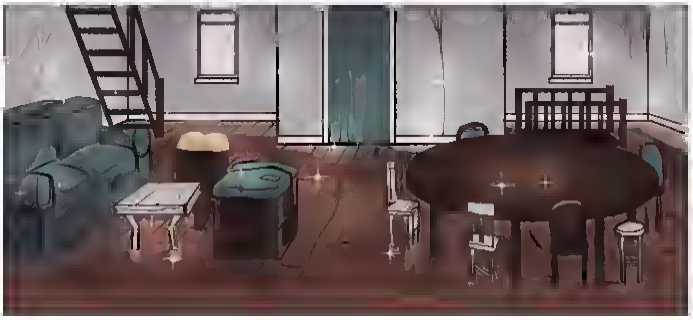
UNDER THE ASCOTS

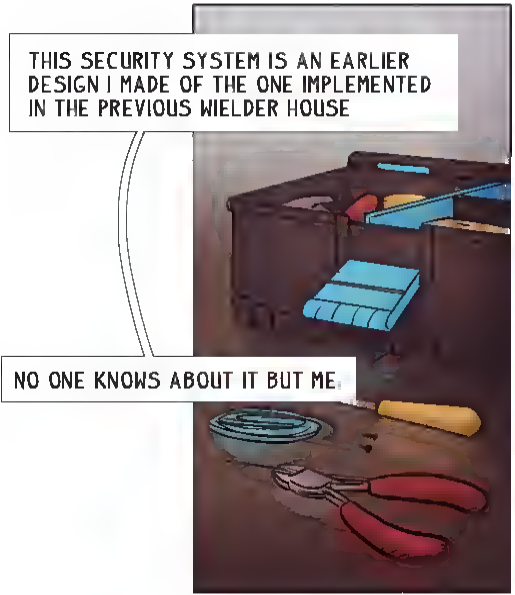






WOW..

THIS PLACE IS LOOKING MUCH BETTER, GUYS GOOD JOB


THIS SECURITY SYSTEM IS AN EARLIER DESIGN I MADE OF THE ONE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PREVIOUS WIELDER HOUSE
NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IT BUT ME

IT'S BASIC BUT IT WORKS...I'VE RIGGED ALL OF THE DOORS AND WINDOWS. IF ANYONE COMES CLOSE, THE ALARMS WILL GO OFF AND I WILL BE NOTIFIED.

DO YOU GUYS STILL HAVE YOUR COMMUNICATORS?
OH! WE KIND OF... LEFT THEM BEHIND.
THAT'S OKAY, I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST DESTROYING THEM ANYWAY.

USE THIS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME. YOU CAN CALL FROM IT BUT NOT RECEIVE ANY, FOR SAFETY.

I'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FAMILIES. I'M NOT SURE HOW LONG WE CAN KEEP YOUR DISAPPEARANCE A SECRET.

MAN ARGUS, WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR HELPING US-
I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT YOU ALL...

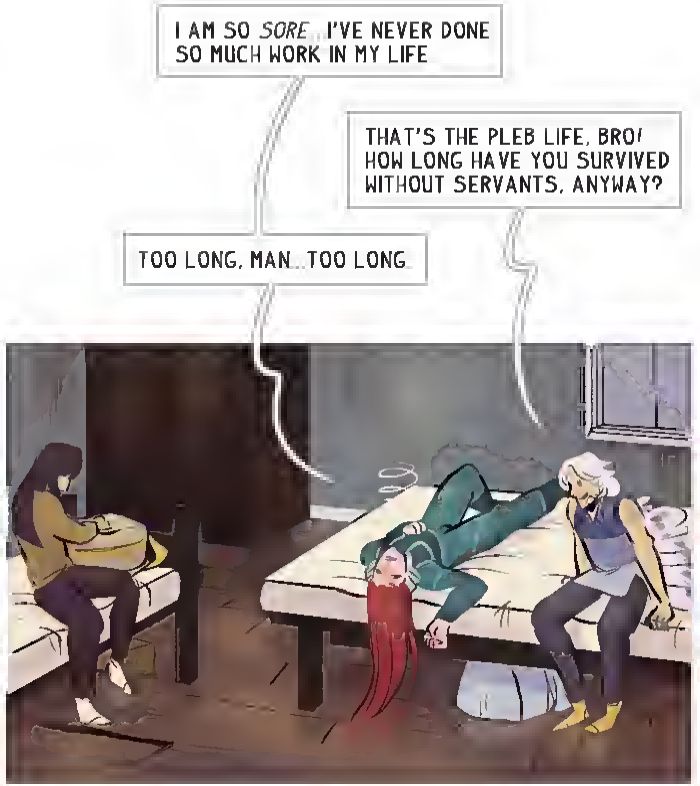
THIS SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN HAPPENED. I...

I JUST...

UNCLE ARGUS-
I'M--I'M FINE.
I BETTER PREPARE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TO ALLURA. THE WORLD LEADERS. AND TO CYRUS. HE'LL BE SO WORRIED.
I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

FOR NOW, DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE, STICK TOGETHER AND GET SOME REST. I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW.

CALL ME... PLEASE.

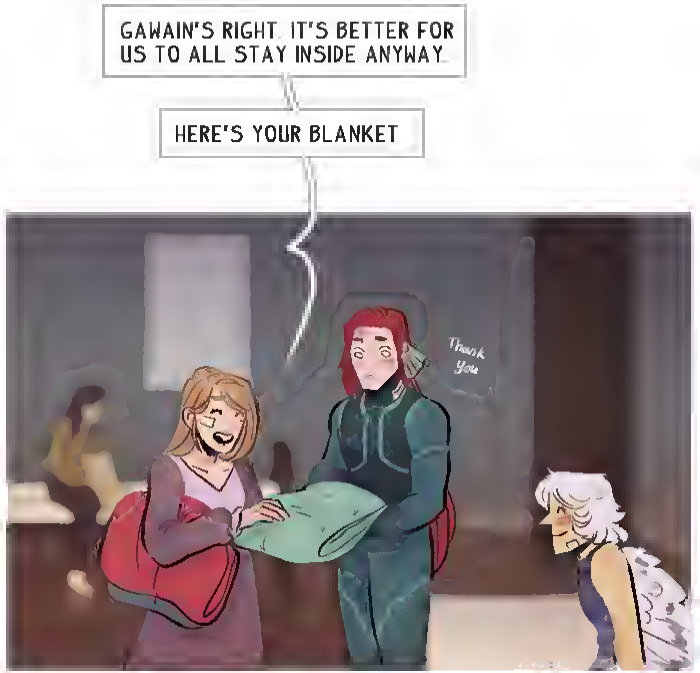

I AM SO *SORE*. I'VE NEVER DONE SO MUCH WORK IN MY LIFE
THAT'S THE PLEB LIFE, BRO! HOW LONG HAVE YOU SURVIVED WITHOUT SERVANTS, ANYWAY?
TOO LONG, MAN...TOO LONG.

HEY GUYS, ARE YOU GOING TO BE WARM ENOUGH? I BROUGHT MORE BLANKETS

THANKS MATTIE, I WON'T BE NEEDING ONE, I'M HEADING OUT TO THE WATER

DUDE, I TOLD YOU. SHARE THIS BED WITH ME AND I'LL WAKE YOU FOR YOUR MORNING DIP OR WOULD HIS HIGHNESS PREFER TO FREEZE HIS ROYAL BUTT OFF OUTSIDE ALL NIGHT?

DON'T BE LAME, MAN.


GAWAIN'S RIGHT. IT'S BETTER FOR US TO ALL STAY INSIDE ANYWAY.
HERE'S YOUR BLANKET
Thank You

Gul

DORIAN? I I BROUGHT SOME BLANKETS FOR YOU

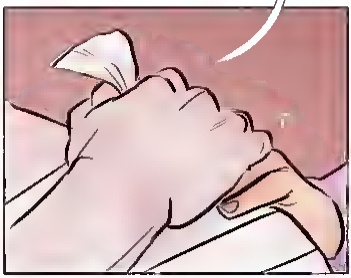
THANK YOU. AND SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
OH, IT'S NO TROUBLE-
--DORIAN!

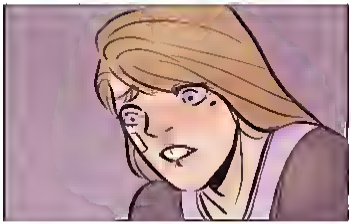
YOU'RE BLEEDING!
!
I MUST HAVE PULLED IT OPEN... USUALLY AN INJURY IS GONE IN A FEW HOURS OR SO.
I'VE HAD LONG ENOUGH TO HEAL.

WELL, SOMETIMES, YOU CAN'T FORCE SOMETHING TO HEAL
YOU JUST HAVE TO GIVE IT MORE TIME.

MATTIE... I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP... BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT WHAT I AM. WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF...

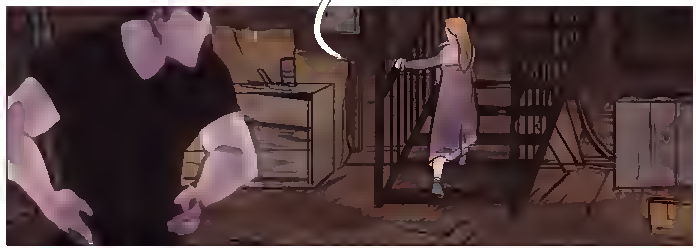
AND THAT MIGHT NOT EVER HAPPEN.





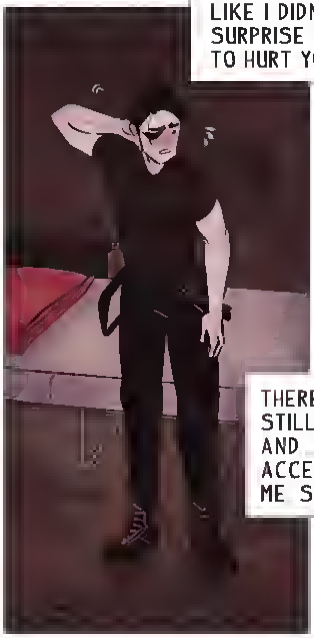
YOU KNOW... SOMETIMES I WISH YOU COULD SEE YOURSELF THE WAY I SEE YOU

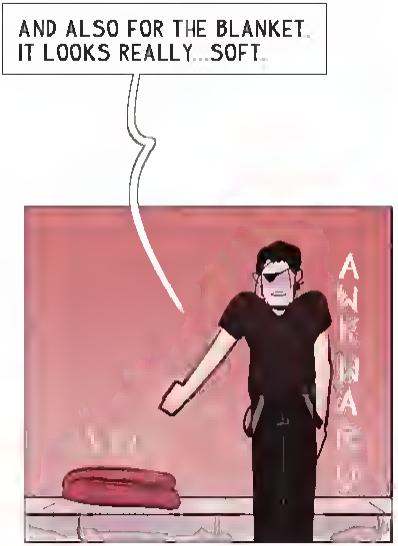
EVEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE



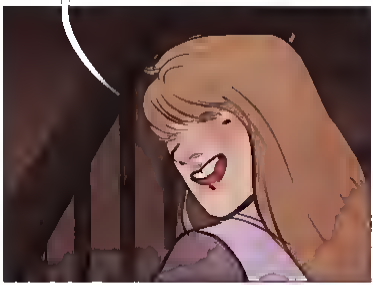
MATTIE WAIT, I_I--

THE OTHER NIGHT, AT THE HOUSE, WHEN YOU--UHHH--


I NEVER MEANT FOR IT TO SOUND LIKE I DIDN'T. YOU TOOK ME BY SURPRISE AND I--I NEVER WANTED TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS.
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I STILL NEED TO WORK THROUGH AND YOUR--UH--EVERYONE'S ACCEPTANCE IS IMPORTANT TO ME. SO THANK YOU FOR THAT.


AND ALSO FOR THE BLANKET.
IT LOOKS REALLY...SOFT.
AWKWARD

Y--YOU'RE VERY WELCOME!



GOODNIGHT!

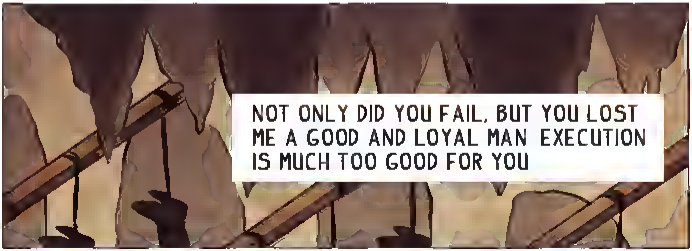
GOODNIGHT MATTIE

WE ALMOST GET KILLED. WE ESCAPE FROM OUR PREVIOUS HOME AND WE'RE NOW LIVING IN A CRUMBLING CABIN.

SO WHY THE HELL ARE YOU SMILING?

I'M JUST...HAPPY WE'RE ALIVE, IS ALL.

YOU'RE SO WEIRD
GOODNIGHT, SIENNA!
YEAH, G'NIGHT

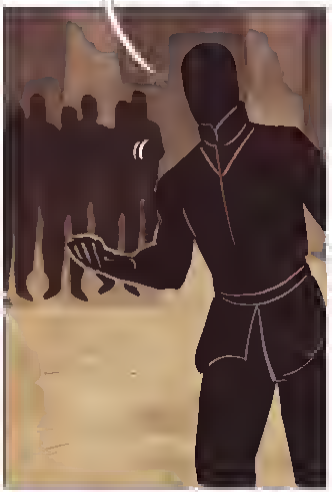

NOT ONLY DID YOU FAIL, BUT YOU LOST ME A GOOD AND LOYAL MAN EXECUTION IS MUCH TOO GOOD FOR YOU

THE MOONBORN...HE WAS...
AND THE BLOODLUST--

IF HE HAD TRULY GONE BERSERK
YOU WOULD BE LYING IN THAT
HOUSE IN *PIECES!* FOOLS!

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO RETREAT. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LETTING IT HAPPEN? LETTING THEM COMPLETE THE RITUAL?

STOPPING ALL THIS?



STOPPING? THE VERY FIRST WIELDERS CARED NOTHING FOR OUR RACE. IT'S BECAUSE OF THEM AND THEIR DAMN RITUAL THAT WE'RE ALL BUT EXTINCT. WHAT GOOD WOULD COMPLETING IT DO?

NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WHAT THAT MAGIC WILL ACCOMPLISH!

I URGE YOU TO RE-THINK OUR PLANS. THIS IS DRAINING YOU. WE COULD CONDUCT A SEARCH FOR REMNANTS OF OUR PEOPLE-

NO. I SHALL NOT STAND FOR FAILURE. FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY EXTERMINATED WIELDERS. AND I WILL NOT BREAK THAT TRADITION. I WILL PROVE MY FATHER WRONG.

AND WE STILL HAVE THE STAFF. THAT ALONE GIVES US THE ADVANTAGE.

WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE GHATIKAN.
I WANT YOU TO DEPLOY ALL OF OUR FORCES TO THE DESERT. FLUSH THE WIELDER OUT.
GO. NOW.
AS FOR THE REST OF YOU. IT IS TIME FOR SOME RE-CONDITIONING

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